



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Rapids, Michigan – December 8, 2004 – United States Attorney Margaret M. Chiara and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced that, on December 6, 2004, Stewart David Barron, age 53, pled guilty to arson, the second count of a two-count indictment.

The arson charge carries a maximum penalty of not less than seven years' and not more than forty years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, a special assessment of \$100, a term of supervised release, and restitution. The defendant admitted during his guilty plea that he set fire to Nelson's Speed Shop in Greenville, Michigan, causing over \$3,000,000 in property damage to the business. Sentencing is scheduled for March 7, 2005.

Ms. Chiara praised the investigative work of ATF and the Michigan State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Michael A. MacDonald is prosecuting the case for the United States.

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